

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**



In re patent application of:

Applicant : Alexander L. Cheng  
Application No. : 09/383,688  
Filed : August 26, 1999  
Examiner : Sheila B. Smith

Date: August 22, 2006

Attorney Docket : Cheng-104  
Confirmation No. : 6908  
Group Art Unit : 2617

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is submitted in furtherance of the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and fee filed concurrently herewith. A Final Office Action ("Office Action") was mailed May 22, 2006. Entry of the following amendment and consideration of the enclosed remarks are respectfully requested. The following sections are enclosed:

- **Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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Commissioner for Patents  
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On August 22, 2006  
Date of Deposit

  
Signature  
Alexander L. Cheng  
Name of person certifying